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Letter dated 21 March 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 10 January 2006, addressed to you, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded between 16 January and 15 March 2006.

On 16 January 2006, one BE-200 Turkish military aircraft coming from the flight information region (FIR) of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 17 January 2006, two F-16 and two F-4 Turkish military aircraft coming in one formation (2X2) from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations.

On 18 January 2006, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 20 January 2006, two Cougar Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Krim, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied areas of Kyrenia, Karpasia and Mesaoria before landing at the same airport.

On 1 February 2006, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft, four F-16 Turkish military aircraft and two F-4 Turkish military aircraft coming in one formation entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

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(a) The C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it later departed towards the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The formation of six F-16 and F-4 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 3 February 2006, one CL-235 Turkish military aircraft, and two F-16 Turkish military aircraft and four F-4 Turkish military aircraft coming in one formation (2X4), violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The CL-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it later departed towards the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The formation of six Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus before exiting towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 8 February 2006, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it later departed towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 9 February 2006, two F-16 Turkish military aircraft coming in one formation from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations.

On 15 February 2006, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it later departed towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 21 February 2006, one B-200 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou.

On 22 February 2006, one C-160 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it later departed towards the FIR of Ankara.

On 23 February 2006, four F-16 Turkish military aircraft coming in one formation from the FIR of Ankara entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations.

On 28 February 2006, one CN-235 Turkish military aircraft and one AB-205 Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The CN-235 Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou, from where it later departed towards the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The AB-205 Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Krini, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Kyrenia before landing at the illegal airport of Krini.

On 15 March 2006, one C-130 Turkish military aircraft and two Cougar Turkish military aircraft violated international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, as follows:

(a) The C-130 Turkish military aircraft and one Cougar Turkish military aircraft entered the FIR of Nicosia, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria before landing at the illegal airport of Tymbou. The C-130 Turkish military aircraft departed on the same day towards the FIR of Ankara, while the Cougar Turkish military aircraft departed first towards the illegal airport of Krini and then towards the FIR of Ankara;

(b) The second Cougar Turkish military aircraft took off from the illegal airport of Krini, violating international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the occupied area of Mesaoria towards the occupied area of Ammochostos and then towards the illegal airport of Krini.

On behalf of my Government I strongly protest the aforementioned violations and call for their immediate cessation. The policy of Turkey of persistently breaching international law and defying international rules and regulations continues to place at serious risk not only the safety of international civil aviation but also the peace and stability of a particularly sensitive region.

Furthermore, such actions undermine any efforts aiming at building trust and improving the climate in the relations between the two communities. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus therefore strongly appeals to the Government of Turkey to review its policy towards Cyprus, to refrain from actions jeopardizing stability and to contribute in a constructive spirit to the preparation process for a new round of substantive and meaningful negotiations that will lead to a breakthrough in the present stalemate on the Cyprus issue.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andreas D. **Mavroyiannis**